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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS SECOND SESSION, HELD IN DAKAR FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 11 DECEMBER 1998

Addendum

PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS SECOND SESSION

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I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES[1]

Decision 1/COP.2

Ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4 of the Convention, related to the convening of ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind that the Conference of the Parties should adopt the budget during its ordinary sessions,

1. *Decides* that the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the year 2001, and that thereafter ordinary sessions shall be held every two years;

2. *Decides also* that the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in the year 2003;

3. *Invites* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with this decision and relevant provisions of the Convention.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

Decision 2/COP.2

Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 2[7] of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1 on its work programme, 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention and 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

1. *Decides* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its third session and, if necessary, its fourth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa;

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(f) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(g) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;

(h) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

2. *Decides also* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, its fifth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties, of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the Convention to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the third session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda, and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 3/COP.2

Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 3/COP.1 on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, administrative and support arrangements, and 4/COP.1 on interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Convention secretariat,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the secretariat report on institutional and interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and the Convention secretariat,[1]

1. *Accepts* the arrangements as outlined in the secretariat report referred to in the preamble to this decision;

2. *Notes* with appreciation the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with its decision 4/COP.1, paragraph 4;

3. *Calls on* the General Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States, including those which are on the list of least developed countries, that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage approved by the General Assembly, including the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000-2001;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit to the General Assembly the report and decisions of its second session;

5. *Reiterates* its appreciation to Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that have supported the interim secretariat;

6. *Invites* the international community, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental institutions and the private sector to continue to support and cooperate with the Convention secretariat and requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with those entities with a view to reaching understandings that specify the nature of the cooperation and support that each entity would provide.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/9.

Decision 4/COP.2

Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1 of 10 October 1997, by which it accepted the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the secretariat of the Convention,

Also recalling that the headquarters agreement was signed on 18 August 1998 and that an exchange of notes forming part of the agreement took place on the same day,

Bearing in mind the note by the secretariat on the headquarters agreement[1] and the statement made by the delegation of Germany on the successful conclusion of the headquarters agreement and its speedy entry into operation,

Noting that the Federal Republic of Germany has issued an ordinance, which became effective on 23 October 1998, implementing major parts of the headquarters agreement under German law, and further noting that article 3, paragraph 3, article 4 and article 5 of the headquarters agreement require ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany,

Noting with satisfaction that the said ratification is nearing completion,

Approves the agreement signed in Bonn on 18 August 1998 concerning the headquarters of the Convention secretariat, subject to its ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on this matter if necessary.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1-2.

Decision 5/COP.2

Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and (b), article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Reaffirming decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Having considered the review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes,[1]

1. *Recalls* that, at its third session, in 1999, it shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties and, at its fourth session, in 2000, the reports of affected country Parties in other regions;

2. *Recalls also* that developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session, and that relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to do likewise;

3. *Recalls further* that reports are to be submitted in conformity with the procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation contained in decision 11/COP.1;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide technical and financial support with a view to assisting affected African country Parties for the compilation and communication of information to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session, in 1999, for consideration, as well as identifying the technical and financial needs associated with action programmes;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on its activities related to paragraph 24 of the procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1 and article 23, paragraph 2(c), of the Convention.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/5.

Decision 6/COP.2

I. Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 6/COP.1, whereby, *inter alia*, it approved a core budget in the amount of US$ 6,100,000 for 1999 and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the budget for 1999,

Further recalling its decision 7/COP.1, whereby, *inter alia*, it took note of the estimated requirements for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, submitted by the Executive Secretary, and requested him to report thereon to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999,

Having considered the report on adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999 submitted by the Executive Secretary[1],

A. The core budget

1. *Approves* the revised core budget of the Convention for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, amounting to US$ 6,100,000, for the following purposes, not including conference servicing costs:

		1999 expenditures (thousands of US$)
I.	Programmes administered by the secretariat of the Convention	
	Policy-making organs	42.0
	Executive direction and management	625.0
	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies	542.0
	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1 384.0
	External relations and public information	388.0
	Global Mechanism	1 003.0
	Administration and systems support	1 000.5
	Administrative overhead charges	648.0
	Subtotal	5 632.5
II.	Working capital reserve	467.5
	Total	6 100.0

2. *Takes note* of the estimate of contribution to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 1 above, as follows:

		1999 contribution (thousands of US$)
Voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany to the secretariat in addition to its existing commitments as a Party to the Convention	Total	546.4

[1] ICCD/COP(2)/2.

3. *Decides* that the Executive Secretary, for the purpose of the 1999 budget, shall make savings equivalent to the special annual contribution of the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat (see paragraph 7 below), in calculating the contributions of Parties to the 1999 budget in a manner that the amount to be shared among the Parties shall total US$ 4,956,800 as the Parties have already budgeted for 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overhead for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat;

5. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, whereby the General Assembly decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium;

6. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contributions of DM 1 million to the secretariat, in addition to its commitments as a Party, and of a further DM 1,000,000 for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

7. *Approves* the creation of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution of DM 1 million from the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat, made in accordance with the bilateral arrangements between the Government of Germany and the Convention secretariat, and requests the Executive Secretary to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish the new trust fund, to be managed by the Executive Secretary;

8. *Approves* the staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

		1999 posts
I.	Professional category and above	
	ASG	1
	D-2	-
	D-1	1
	P-5	6
	P-4	4
	P-3	6
	P-2	3
	Subtotal	21
II.	General Service category	11
	TOTAL	32

9. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines set out in part I, paragraph 1, above, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line is reduced by more than 25 per cent;

10. *Reaffirms* that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its third session a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, which should include a contingency provision for conference servicing costs in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the regular United Nations budget for that biennium;

B. Amendment to the Financial Rules

13. *Amends* paragraph 12 (a) of the Financial Rules to read as follows:

"(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly of the United Nations;"

C. Indicative scale of contributions

14. *Adopts* the attached indicative scale of contributions to the General Fund of the Convention for 1999, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

15. *Recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Financial Rules of the Convention, contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that each Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the Executive Secretary of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing of that contribution;

16. *Invites* Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under part A, paragraph 1 above, as offset by the estimated contribution noted in paragraph 2.

II. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the estimated requirements submitted by the Executive Secretary;

2. *Invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the Financial Rules, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of Parties;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26, paragraph 7 of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

3. *Further invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Special Fund established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Financial Rules, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular, least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the status of the Trust Funds established under the Financial Rules.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

ANNEX

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale[2] (%)	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
1. Afghanistan*	0.003	0.004	
2. Algeria	0.094	0.137	
3. Angola*	0.010	0.010	
4. Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	
5. Argentina	1.024	1.487	
6. Armenia	0.011	0.016	
7. Austria	0.941	1.367	
8. Azerbaijan	0.022	0.032	
9. Bahrain	0.017	0.024	
10. Bangladesh*	0.010	0.010	
11. Barbados	0.008	0.012	
12. Belgium	1.103	1.602	
13. Belize	0.001	0.001	
14. Benin*	0.002	0.003	
15. Bolivia	0.007	0.011	
16. Botswana	0.010	0.015	
17. Brazil	1.470	2.135	
18. Burkina Faso*	0.002	0.003	
19. Burundi*	0.001	0.001	
20. Cambodia*	0.001	0.001	
21. Cameroon	0.013	0.019	
22. Canada	2.754	4.000	
23. Cape Verde*	0.002	0.003	
24. Central African Republic*	0.001	0.001	
25. Chad*	0.001	0.001	
26. Chile	0.131	0.190	
27. China	0.973	1.414	
28. Comoros*	0.001	0.001	
29. Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	
30. Costa Rica	0.010	0.023	
31. Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.013	
32. Cuba	0.026	0.038	
33. Democratic Republic of the Congo*	0.007	0.010	
34. Denmark	0.691	1.003	
35. Djibouti*	0.001	0.001	
36. Dominica	0.001	0.001	
37. Dominican Republic	0.015	0.022	
38. Ecuador	0.020	0.029	
39. Egypt	0.065	0.095	
40. El Salvador	0.012	0.018	
41. Equatorial Guinea*	0.001	0.001	
42. Eritrea*	0.001	0.001	
43. Ethiopia*	0.006	0.008	
44. European Community	2.500	2.500	
45. Fiji	0.004	0.006	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
46. Finland	0.542	0.788	
47. France	6.540	9.500	
48. Gabon	0.015	0.022	
49. Gambia*	0.001	0.001	
50. Germany	9.808	14.247	
51. Ghana	0.007	0.011	
52. Greece	0.351	0.510	
53. Grenada	0.001	0.001	
54. Guatemala	0.018	0.026	
55. Guinea*	0.003	0.004	
56. Guinea-Bissau*	0.001	0.001	
57. Guyana	0.001	0.001	
58. Haiti*	0.002	0.003	
59. Honduras	0.003	0.004	
60. Iceland	0.032	0.046	
61. India	0.299	0.434	
62. Indonesia	0.184	0.267	
63. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.193	0.281	
64. Ireland	0.224	0.325	
65. Israel	0.345	0.501	
66. Italy	5.432	7.890	
67. Jamaica	0.006	0.008	
68. Japan	19.984	25.000	
69. Jordan	0.006	0.008	
70. Kazakhstan	0.066	0.096	
71. Kenya	0.007	0.011	
72. Kiribati	0.001	0.001	
73. Kuwait	0.134	0.195	
74. Kyrgyzstan	0.008	0.012	
75. Lao People's Democratic Republic*	0.001	0.001	
76. Lebanon	0.016	0.023	
77. Lesotho*	0.002	0.003	
78. Liberia*	0.002	0.003	
79. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.132	0.191	
80. Luxembourg	0.068	0.099	
81. Madagascar*	0.003	0.004	
82. Malawi*	0.002	0.003	
83. Malaysia	0.180	0.262	
84. Mali*	0.002	0.003	
85. Malta	0.014	0.020	
86. Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	
87. Mauritania*	0.001	0.001	
88. Mauritius	0.009	0.013	
89. Mexico	0.980	1.423	
90. Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
91. Mongolia	0.002	0.003	
92. Morocco	0.041	0.060	
93. Mozambique*	0.001	0.001	
94. Myanmar*	0.008	0.010	
95. Namibia	0.007	0.011	
96. Nepal*	0.004	0.006	
97. Netherlands	1.631	2.370	
98. Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	
99. Niger*	0.002	0.003	
100. Nigeria	0.040	0.058	
101. Niue	0.001	0.001	
102. Norway	0.610	0.886	
103. Oman	0.051	0.074	
104. Pakistan	0.059	0.085	
105. Panama	0.013	0.019	
106. Paraguay	0.014	0.020	
107. Peru	0.095	0.138	
108. Portugal	0.417	0.606	
109. Romania	0.067	0.098	
110. Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	
111. Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	
112. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	
113. Samoa	0.001	0.001	
114. Sao Tome and Principe*	0.001	0.001	
115. Saudi Arabia	0.569	0.827	
116. Senegal	0.006	0.008	
117. Seychelles	0.002	0.003	
118. Sierra Leone*	0.001	0.001	
119. South Africa	0.366	0.531	
120. Spain	2.589	3.761	
121. Sudan*	0.007	0.010	
122. Swaziland	0.002	0.003	
123. Sweden	1.084	1.574	
124. Switzerland	1.215	1.765	
125. Syrian Arab Republic	0.064	0.093	
126. Tajikistan	0.005	0.007	
127. Togo*	0.001	0.001	
128. Tunisia	0.028	0.041	
129. Turkey	0.440	0.639	
130. Turkmenistan	0.008	0.012	
131. Uganda*	0.004	0.006	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
132. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.090	7.394	
133. United Republic of Tanzania*	0.003	0.004	
134. Uzbekistan	0.037	0.054	
135. Venezuela	0.176	0.256	
136. Viet Nam	0.007	0.011	
137. Yemen*	0.010	0.010	
138. Zambia*	0.002	0.003	
139. Zimbabwe	0.009	0.013	
TOTAL	72.413	100.000	4 956 800

* Least developed countries.

[1] Actual Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 11 December 1998.

[2] In accordance with paragraph 12(a) of the Financial Rules, indicative rates of contribution are based on the United Nations scale of assessments, as currently contained in General Assembly resolution A/RES/52/215 of 20 January 1998, adjusted to obtain a total of 100 per cent and to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

Decision 7/COP.2

Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties regarding the role and functions of the Convention secretariat,

Having considered the medium-term strategy of the secretariat[1],

1. *Decides* to have further consideration of the issue related to the medium-term strategy of the secretariat in the context of the implementation of the Convention and programme proposals;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to elaborate a new document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the second session of the Conference of the Parties, as well as on written submissions by the Parties no later than 30 April 1999, and to submit that document and a compendium to the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/6.

Decision 8/COP.2

Collaboration with other conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 8 of the Convention, on the relationship with other conventions, and article 22, paragraph 2(i), on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant international bodies and conventions,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2(d), on the coordination by the secretariat of its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions,

Bearing in mind its decision 9/COP.1, paragraph 3(a), and its decision 13/COP.1, paragraph 2, on collaboration and coordination with other international bodies and conventions, and decision 14/COP.1 on relations with the Global Environment Facility,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat on collaboration and synergies among Rio conventions for the implementation of the Convention[1],

1. *Requests* the secretariat to take steps to implement that report in consultation with other relevant secretariats, and to develop, as appropriate, a memorandum of understanding to define their collaboration and cooperation;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing documents for the Conference of the Parties, to seek, as appropriate, the views of and inputs from relevant convention secretariats, as well as from relevant international organizations, agencies and institutions;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on his activities in fulfilling this decision, bearing in mind the relevant resolutions and/or decisions of the United Nations General Assembly.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/7.

Decision 9/COP.2

Regional implementation annexes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 12/COP.1 on regional implementation annexes,

Recalling also article 11 of the Convention,

Taking note of the review by the Convention secretariat of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes[1],

1. *Welcomes* agreements reached by country Parties of the regional implementation annexes to launch regional action programmes;

2. *Urges* Parties in regions which have not yet done so to accelerate the process of adoption and implementation of regional action programmes as well as the launching of activities and projects in cross-border areas identified or to be identified in each subregional or regional action programme;

3. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties to pursue all necessary efforts for the formulation and implementation of activities and projects initiated in the framework of priority areas for interregional cooperation on the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate assistance, in accordance with article 23 (2) of the Convention, for the effective and efficient implementation of regional action programmes;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries, the United Nations system, including multilateral financial institutions, regional economic integration organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the efforts of affected developing country Parties in the processes of elaboration and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation to combat desertification, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/5.

Decision 10/COP.2

Review of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention,

Noting that, in spite of efforts made to address the issue at its second session, it was recognized that more time was needed for its consideration,

1. *Invites* Parties to make submissions in writing to the Convention secretariat in anticipation of consideration of this decision, to be received by the secretariat no later than 30 April 1999;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to compile submissions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to include the consideration of decision 10/COP.1 on the agenda for its third session;

4. *Decides* to transmit to its third session the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/L.9, proposed by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, for consideration in place of document A/AC.241/L.42, referred to in decision 10/COP.1, paragraph 2.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 11/COP.2

Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its first session[1], noting the wish of some eastern and central European countries to establish an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention,

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, paragraph 6, inviting the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region,

Having taken note of the wish of the concerned countries to become Parties to the Convention by completing the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession,

1. *Urges* observer countries from eastern and central Europe to take appropriate actions to become parties to the Convention through the early completion of the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, thereby facilitating adoption of the additional regional implementation annex to the Convention by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

2. *Takes note* of the progress made through the informal consultations aimed at producing a draft for an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention;

3. *Invites* countries of eastern and central Europe to pursue consultations with a view to producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention;

4. *Invites also* the countries of eastern and central Europe to submit a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to support the process under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(1)/11, paragraph 53.

Decision 12/COP.2

Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 16/COP.1 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology,

1. *Decides* that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session shall be early-warning systems in its broadest sense;

2. *Also decides* that the agenda for the third session of the Committee shall include the other topics on the agenda for the second session of the Committee;

3. *Requests* the Convention secretariat to facilitate the convening of at least one inter-sessional bureau meeting of the Committee within existing resources for the review of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties and other related matters regarding the work of the Committee, especially the planning and organization of the next session of the Committee;

4. *Invites* Parties to submit contributions in writing not exceeding 10 pages to the Convention secretariat no later than 30 June 1999, referring to the priority issues to be addressed at the third session of the Committee, reporting on already existing experiences of early-warning systems as well as on specialized institutions acting in this field to facilitate the preparation of the third session.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 13/COP.2

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the proposed roster of independent experts[1] prepared by the secretariat of the Convention in accordance with decision 19/COP.1 based on submissions from Parties through diplomatic channels,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system,

1. *Invites* Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas are addressed, in particular by:

(a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender equity;

(b) Ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines, particularly in the areas of anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology and trade;

(c) Increasing representation of experts from international and non-governmental organizations;

2. *Also invites* Parties which have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster including full addresses to do so;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster is made available in electronic form as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to distribute a paper copy of the roster to Parties on an annual basis.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/11 and Add.1.

Decision 14/COP.2

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the synopsis of reports on traditional knowledge compiled by the secretariat[1],

1. *Requests* the secretariat to complete its ongoing work on compiling the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale where appropriate, and make a synthesis of this work available to the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To explore ways and means of linking the work of the Committee on traditional knowledge with similar work being undertaken under other related conventions and to report to the Committee thereon at its third session; and

(b) To prepare a report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems drawing on the discussions that took place at the second session of the Committee and the synthesis referred to in paragraph 1 above in time for its presentation to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Decides* to appoint an ad hoc panel composed of ten experts with terms of reference as follows:

(a) Drawing upon the synthesis referred to in paragraph 1 above, to identify successful experiences and conclusions relating to:

(i) Threats and other constraints, including socio-economic impacts, confronting such traditional knowledge and practices;

(ii) Strategies for integrating traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices with modern knowledge based on specific case histories; and

(iii) Mechanisms for promoting and exchanging successful approaches;

(b) To report accordingly to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that issues relating to linking information networks on traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices to the national action programmes are addressed under the survey and evaluation of networks.

10th Plenary
10 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5.

Decision 15/COP.2

Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the report of the secretariat of the Convention on other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology[1],

1. *Invites* Governments to update the information contained in the report by submitting to the secretariat in writing the names of and relevant information on additional organizations, whether national, subregional, regional or international by 30 May 1999;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to update the information on potential areas of cooperation between the Convention and the other conventions and organizations specified in the annex to the document[1/] referred to in the preamble to this decision.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4.

Decision 16/COP.2

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 22/COP.1, requesting Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in document A/AC.241/Inf.4 as revised by document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and to report on the utility of such implementation indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting also the consensus on the report of the ad hoc panel that acted as a steering committee to the open-ended informal consultative process on benchmarks and indicators[1],

1. *Requests* the Conference of the Parties to endorse the methodological framework for impact indicators proposed by the panel[1], pending their testing and validation;

2. *Invites* Governments to initiate testing of the impact indicators and the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties for the affected African country Parties, and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties for the affected country Parties of the other regions;

3. *Encourages* the Parties, through the regional groups of the Convention annexes, to identify countries that are sufficiently representative of their regions and subregions, to present their experience in the application of impact indicators to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties in order to permit evaluation and refinement of the methodology;

4. *Encourages also* Parties and other countries in a position to provide assistance, as well as international organizations, to mobilize technical and financial support for the affected country Parties, and to initiate the testing of impact indicators, particularly at the national level.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1.

Decision 17/COP.2

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Bearing in mind its decision 23/COP.1,

Noting the necessary contractual arrangements entered into by the head of the secretariat with the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for the completion of the work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies,

Noting also the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme in its work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to expedite this process in conformity with the mandate given to it by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. *Further requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to submit a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases of the survey and evaluation for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session in conformity with decision 23/COP.1, annex.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

Decision 18/COP.2

Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1 on the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities, and on collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism, respectively,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat[1] and of the International Fund for Agricultural Development[2] as the organization housing the Global Mechanism and the joint report[3] of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank and of the draft memorandum of understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization housing the International Fund for Agricultural Development/Global Mechanism[4],

Having considered the report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism[2/] and the report of the current chair of the Facilitation Committee[3/],

1. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as indicated by the Conference of the Parties at its first session in its decision 24/COP.1;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the United Nations Development Programme in identifying and selecting the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism in consultation with, and his appointment by, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

3. *Also notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the International Fund for Agricultural Development as an organic part of the structure of the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Further notes with appreciation* the role of the Facilitation Committee with its expanded membership in supporting the work of the Global Mechanism and looks forward to the Committee's continued support;

5. *Invites* the International Fund for Agricultural Development to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and the community of non-governmental organizations, as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.1.

[3] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.2.

[4] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

6. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to establish an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate actions;

7. *Requests also* the Global Mechanism and the Convention secretariat to cooperate in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles as contained in the draft memorandum of understanding;

8. *Invites* the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and, as appropriate, the other members of the Facilitation Committee to nominate focal points for the purpose of liaison with the Global Mechanism;

9. *Invites* relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Food Programme, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some country Parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions to support the activities and, as appropriate, in addition to the core budget, to support the functioning of the Global Mechanism;

11. *Takes note* of the first draft of an operational strategy and requests the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to complete the development of an operational strategy, so as to ensure full consideration of all its main functions including mobilizing and channelling of financial resources as contained in its decision 24/COP.1;

12. *Decides* to undertake, at its third session, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, consider and take appropriate action.

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11 December 1998

Decision 19/COP.2

Memorandum of understanding
between the Conference of the Parties to
the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and
the International Fund for Agricultural Development
regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the
Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism[1], jointly prepared by the secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and requests the secretariat of the Convention to continue consultations on the text of the draft memorandum of understanding, in order to ensure that comments by Parties are taken into account, and to submit a revised draft of the memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. *Decides* to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China;

3. *Calls upon* all those to whom the draft memorandum of understanding is addressed to act, pending its entry into operation, as if it were already in effect.

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11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, annex.

Decision 20/COP.2

Consideration of rules 22 and 31 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to replace paragraph 1 of rule 22 with the following:

"At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. They shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the regional groups recognized by the practice of the United Nations."

2. *Decides also* to replace rule 31 with the following:

"The Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairperson of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

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11 December 1998

Decision 21/COP.2

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to replace the marginal note, the title and paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure with the following:

"*Majority required*

Rule 47

1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by [a simple majority vote] [a two-thirds majority vote] of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22, paragraph 2(g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

(a) The Convention;

(b) The financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the Convention; or

(c) The present rules of procedure.]]"

2. *Requests* the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of its third session.

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11 December 1998

Decision 22/COP.2

Resolution of questions:
annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Recalling further article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Bearing in mind that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, decided[1] to include consideration of the issues referred to in the foregoing paragraphs as selected items on the agenda for its second session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the secretariat on such issues[1/];

2. *Decides* to consider the issue further at the third session of the Conference of the Parties in the light of the progress of the negotiations on the same issues in other relevant environmental conventions with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

3. *Decides also* to consider at the third session of the Conference of the Parties the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures, taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat[2].

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[1] Decision 9/COP.1.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/10.

Decision 23/COP.2

Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration by Members of Parliament regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made by the President of the National Assembly of Senegal reporting on the outcome of the Round Table of Parliamentarians, which took place in Dakar on 7 December 1998 and which saw the participation of thirty-five Parliamentarians from twenty-one countries,

1. *Takes note*, with appreciation, of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 24/COP.2

Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. *Decides* that the third session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Recife, Brazil, from 15 November to 26 November 1999;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Brazil with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the Conference in Recife and to meet the related costs.

10th Plenary
10 December 1998

Decision 25/COP.2

Credentials of representatives of Parties
to the second session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[1]

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report[2] on credentials of the Bureau of the second session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] Editor's note: see also part I of this report and ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1.

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution 1/COP.2

Solidarity with Central America

The Conference of the Parties,

Concerned at the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch that led to the tremendous loss of thousands of lives, of infrastructure and environmental degradation in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Costa Rica and Panama,

Aware of the high vulnerability of Central American and Caribbean countries to such climatic phenomena,

Concerned that such natural phenomena worsen soil degradation, especially in the Central American and Caribbean subregions, which are the most vulnerable to these effects,

Recognizing that these unfortunate events give special urgency to our deliberations in this conference and oblige us to look for new opportunities for common cooperation actions,

1. *Expresses* its strongest solidarity and deep condolences to the people and Governments of Central America after this tragic event;

2. *Invites* the international community, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to contribute to the reconstruction and support with humanitarian assistance and other cooperative actions;

3. *Urges* all Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and society in general, to offer them technical and financial assistance for the effective execution of the national action plans of the affected countries and subregional programmes for combating desertification;

4. *Invites* support for the Central American initiatives emanating from the Presidential Summit convened in San Salvador, El Salvador, in the aftermath of the catastrophes which call for a sustainable reconstruction plan for Central America.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Resolution 2/COP.2

Vote of thanks to the people and Government of Senegal

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met for its second regular session in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November to 11 December 1998, at the invitation of the Government of Senegal,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the efforts and sacrifices made to ensure that the Conference took place in Dakar and for having made available to it facilities, personnel and services of excellent quality;

2. *Requests* the Government of Senegal to transmit to the city of Dakar and the entire people of Senegal the thanks of the Parties to the Convention and Observers for the warm welcome and African hospitality offered to all the participants;

3. *Further requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties, the Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of Senegal, to transmit to the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, the thanks of the participants for having opened the proceedings in person, for his great interest in the problems connected with environment and development and for his personal commitment to the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

12th Plenary
12 December 1998